

REMARKS

In accordance with the foregoing, claims 1, 3, 5, 11 and 12 have been amended and claims 15 and 16 have been added. Claim 1-16 are pending and under consideration.

The sole rejection in the outstanding Office Action is a rejection of claims 1-6, 11 and 12 under 35 USC § 102(b) as being anticipated by U.S. Patent No. 5,276,706 to Budin et al.

One possible object to the present invention is to reduce communication costs for remote maintenance of an internetwork connector and to build a trouble resistant (reliable and robust) remote monitoring system. Independent claims 1 and 5 are respectively directed to a remote maintenance repeater and an internetwork connector used in a remote monitoring system.

The remote maintenance repeater has a command transmitting unit that transmits a command to a transfer destination device, which is an internetwork connector or another remote maintenance repeater, at a specific frequency specific to the transfer destination device. The internetwork connector has a radio result transmitting unit to transmit a result of execution by radio at the predetermined frequency.

Budin et al. discloses a multiple access communication system, which includes one or more hub units, a plurality of station units associated with each of the hub units, and a link means for establishing a bidirectional communications link between each of the hub units and its associated station units.

Budin et al.'s bidirectional communication link is characterized in downlink means for establishing a unidirectional downlink radio frequency signal path from each of the hub units to all of the associated station units at a predetermined frequency and uplink means for establishing a unidirectional uplink radio frequency path from each of the station units to all of the associated hub units at a second predetermined frequency.

The Examiner asserts that Budin et al. discloses transmitting and receiving at a specific frequency specific to the transfer destination device. Making this assertion, the Examiner cites column 8, lines 9-14 of Budin et al. However, this portion of the reference indicates that hub unit 12 transfers information to its associated subscriber units 14a-14g via a downlink radio communication channel 16 having a frequency of 5.78 GHz. Budin et al. states that the subscriber units 14a-14g transfer information to the hub unit having a frequency of 2.44 GHz. Budin et al.'s bidirectional communication link is quite different from the command transmitting unit and radio result transmitting unit of the present invention, at least with regard to the radio frequency. Budin et al. fails to disclose the features of the independent claims.

With regard to independent method claims 11 and 12, these claims correspond with computer program claims 13 and 14, which have been allowed. By allowing claims 13 and 14, the Examiner apparently recognized the patentability of the methods recited in claims 11 and 12. It is submitted that claims 11 and 12 should be allowed for the same reasons as claims 13 and 14.

There being no further outstanding objections or rejections, it is submitted that the application is in condition for allowance. An early action to that effect is courteously solicited.

Finally, if there are any formal matters remaining after this response, the Examiner is requested to telephone the undersigned to attend to these matters.

If there are any additional fees associated with filing of this Amendment, please charge the same to our Deposit Account No. 19-3935.

Respectfully submitted,

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